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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1324, DECEMBER 26, 3 PM

ALTHOUGH AT FIRST READING SOVIET NOTE (MYTEL 1317) APPEARS TO BE AN INTOLERABLE IMPERTINENCE, WISH TO SUGGEST THAT SOVIETS DO HAVE A POINT IN THAT IN USING EXPRESSION SOVIET ZONE WE NOT ONLY GIVE OUR CHARACTERIZATION OF GDR BUT ALSO SOVIET RELATIONS WITH IT WHICH OF COURSE DIFFICULT FOR SOVIETS TO ACCEPT. IF WE MAKE REPLY HOWEVER SUGGEST WE MIGHT STATE THAT WE ASSUME FROM SOVIET NOTE THAT IN FUTURE NOTES TO US THEY WILL REFRAIN FROM CHARACTERIZING GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY INSULTING EXPRESSIONS THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY USED IN PAST. OUR REPLY WOULD I ASSUME CONTAIN SOME STATEMENT TO PROTECT OUR OWN LEGAL POSITION REGARDING SOVIET RESPONSIBILITIES TO US IN GERMANY.

I HAVE LONG ADVOCATED MORE VIGOROUS ACTION ON OUR PART TO CHARACTERIZE PUPPET NATURE OF EAST GERMAN REGIME AND REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE MIGHT BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

THOMPSON

FKG/20

762.00/12-2658

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MAR 25 1959

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